

Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Executive Officer's Summary Report
June 15-16, 2023

ITEM: R1-2023-0013

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2023-0013 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Hopland Public Utility District (PUD) Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80154OMEN (Lynette Shipsey)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2023-0013 (Proposed Order).

BACKGROUND: The Hopland PUD (hereinafter Discharger) is currently discharging pursuant to Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2008-0003. The renewal of waste discharge requirements is for the Hopland PUD Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The Facility has a design average daily dry weather flow (ADWF) of 90,000 gpd and design average wet weather flow (AWWF) of 100,000 gpd.

The Discharger owns wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities serving approximately 290 domestic and commercial connections within Hopland in Mendocino County. The Discharger has a service contract with Willow County Water District for operations and maintenance.

The wastewater collection system was originally constructed in 1975 and consists of approximately 19,000 feet of 8-inch vitrified clay sewer pipe, 3,000 feet of 4-inch cast iron force main, and two lift stations. The Facility consists of three aerated lagoons, a facultative treatment pond, chlorine disinfection unit, and two percolation ponds. Disposal in the ponds is accomplished by a combination of evaporation and percolation. The percolation ponds are located approximately 250 feet to the southwest of Feliz Creek and 600 feet to the west of the Russian River on the east side of Highway 101 in an agricultural and rural setting within the town of Hopland.

DISCUSSION: The Proposed Order has effluent limitations, source control provisions, discharge prohibitions and influent and effluent flow monitoring. The Proposed Order requires monthly effluent sampling and quarterly monitoring and reporting, and annual reporting summarizing the Discharger's effluent monitoring results, solids handling activities, permit compliance status, and source control activities for the previous year. The Proposed Order requires evaluation of potential impacts from the permitted discharge to ensure protection of the beneficial uses of groundwater and surface water. A source control program summary report is required by March 1st each year to assess industrial, commercial, and residential discharges to the Facility and prevent toxic pollutants from passing through or interfering with the operation of the treatment system. Additionally, the Proposed Order requires a disaster preparedness assessment report and action plan to ensure that the Facility operations are not disrupted, compliance with conditions of the Proposed Order are achieved, and receiving waters are not adversely impacted by permitted and unpermitted discharges during natural disasters.

Other noteworthy items contained in the Proposed Order include:

1. An explanation of how the Proposed Order complies with the Antidegradation Policy to clarify maintaining higher quality water consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state and protection of the present and anticipated beneficial uses of water (Order section II.G);
2. A finding for The Human Right to Water Policy which provides that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (Order section II.J);
3. A finding for AB 2108 requirements which provides that the Regional Water Board conducted outreach in potentially affected disadvantaged and tribal communities and that the discharge regulated by the Proposed Order is not expected to result in a disproportional impact to tribal or disadvantaged communities.
4. Updated beneficial uses and receiving water limitations consistent with the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) (Order section II.D and VII);
5. A discharge prohibition of septage or other bulk, high-strength wastes discharged into the Facility or the sanitary sewer system (Order section III.K);
6. Records retention requirements for all operating and monitoring information required by the Proposed Order (Order section VIII.K);
7. A Compliance Determination section which provides clarity on how compliance with Order requirements will be determined (Order section IX);
8. Title 22 pollutant sampling and annual volumetric reporting requirements (MRP sections III.B and IV.B.4); and
9. A Special Study requirement for evaluation of the potential impacts to surface water and groundwater to confirm that the discharge of treated municipal wastewater complies with the receiving water limitations set forth in the Proposed Order and does not threaten the beneficial uses of adjacent surface waters, Feliz Creek and the Russian River (MRP section IV.B.8).

A copy of the draft Order was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from January 25, 2023, through February 24, 2023. Regional Water Board staff communicated with the Discharger during the public comment period to discuss the Proposed Order and the Discharger did not identify any significant concerns. Regional Water Board staff received no written comments from the Discharger or public during the notification period. The attached Response to Comments document includes a summary of the staff-initiated changes. Regional Water Board staff virtually met with the Discharger on March 20, 2023, after the close of the public comment period, to discuss the changes made to the draft Order and the

Discharger did not have any objections to the proposed changes. Staff anticipates that the Proposed Order will be uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2023-0013, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order R1-2023-0013
2. Staff Response to Comments
3. Notice of Public Hearing

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